

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
KENT CONRAD, RANKING MEMBER

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**STATEMENT BY SENATOR KENT CONRAD
(D-ND) ON NEW JOBLESS FIGURES**

This lack-luster jobs report shows the economy will need to show considerably stronger growth in order to get more Americans back to work.

Over the short-term the economy is bound to show some signs of recovery. After all, with the government running a record deficit, pumping hundreds of billions of dollars in new spending and new tax cuts into the economy, no one should be surprised if the economy starts improving in the short-term.

Let's face it. Anybody can pump up the economy for a time by writing \$600 billion of hot checks. The problem is that the Bush administration intends to continue running big deficits, even as the economy strengthens, for as far as the eye can see, driving us deeper and deeper into debt. It is this long-term fiscal imbalance that will undermine economic growth and weaken the economic strength of America. That's the real problem with the President's economic plan.

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